



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 14, 2006

FACT SHEET

MAYOR ANNOUNCES CREATION, PLANS OF CITY COMMISSION ON GANG PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

*Commission's Main Focus Is to Create City-wide Strategy for Addressing Gang
Issues; Executive Director of Commission Expected to be on the Job, July 3*

Mayor Jerry Sanders today announced the creation and plans for the City's first ever Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention. The Mayor thanked and congratulated 4th District Councilmember Tony Young for spearheading the creation of the Commission. The Commission will be an official advisory body to the Mayor, City Council, and the City Manager.

The Commission's mission will be the creation an overall strategy to address gang issues in the City, and specifically ways to prevent gang involvement. While the Police Department's Gang Unit focuses primarily on enforcement issues, the Commission's focus will be to develop a more strategic, coordinated and collaborative effort between the City, law enforcement agencies, social service providers and the public, in the areas of gang prevention and intervention.

Mayor Sanders also announced today that the Executive Director of the Commission is expected to be in place on July 3. The City received 120 applications for the position; that number was whittled down to five and final interviews are currently taking place with the finalists.

Timeline for Creation of Gang Commission:

April 4, 2006: City Council passed the Ordinance establishing the San Diego Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention

April 7, 2006: Ordinance signed by Mayor Sanders

May 2-30, 2006: Executive Director of Gang Commission position posted for applications. 120 applications received

June 2006: Currently five applicants are finalists. Throughout June, Council districts are forwarding the names of two Commission member nominees each from their district to the Mayor's office. The Mayor's office is identifying additional potential commission members.

July 3, 2006: Executive Director of Gang Commission to start employment.

September 2006: Anticipated that commissioners will be approved by City Council. First Commission meeting.

The Gang Commission will consist of 17 members as follows:
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- One member from each council district (chosen by the Mayor from two nominees submitted by each councilmember to represent his or her district)
- One at-large member
- One member from the field of K-12 education
- One member from a community organization working on gang issues
- One member from the field of law enforcement
- One member from the field of public health
- One member from the field of social services
- One member from the San Diego Association of Governments
- One member from the San Diego Workforce Partnership
- One member who will be a reformed gang member

Once in place, the Commission will meet monthly and:

- make policy recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on gang prevention, intervention, diversion and suppression methods
- Identify local, state and federal funding sources
- Identify best practices
- Identify gang prevention solutions that are part of a more comprehensive plan, and do not require funding, i.e. truancy sweeps
- Form subcommittees to analyze critical issues of gang involvement
- Network with boards, agencies and community residents on gang related issues

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